



## 100 days to London

Celebrators met at the Bird's Nest on Wednesday to mark the 100-day countdown to the London 2012 Olympic Games.

British Ambassador to China Sebastian Wood celebrated with a special event at Beijing Sport University. Wood says Britain is prepared to welcome the world to what promises to be the greatest show on Earth.

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### Expat shares love of city

She is a radio host, an actress and a founder of Cheeky Monkey Theater. But before that, Elyse Ribbons is a lover of Beijing.

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### 20 years of feminist art

At 59 years old, Chen Qingqing is much unlike her fellow contemporary artists. Her latest exhibition reviews her 20-year career.



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# Taxi sharing still tough despite gov's plea

By Zhao Hongyi

To reduce traffic jams, the Beijing municipal government is calling on residents to share cabs during rush hour. But in spite of early support for the policy, many are finding taxi sharing to be easier said than done.

Getting a taxi during rush hour in downtown Beijing is impossible.

Every day, more than 2 million Beijingers hop a cab: the problem is that they do so from a fleet of only 66,000 taxis.

Since late last month, the municipal government has been asking people to share taxis when possible to fight congestion and free up vehicles. In a shared ride, each passenger has to pay 60 percent of the total fare, according to new regulations that are under trial.

But many said the request will do little to ease the capital's traffic burden.

Beijing has more than 5 million registered vehicles, mostly used by officials, businesses and private individuals.

The exponential increase in the number of vehicles is the driving force behind the city's severe traffic congestion and pollution, city officials said.

In spite of the government's decade-long splurge on public transportation, it has made little progress in easing congestion at peak hours.

Many private cars have started to illegally provide taxi services to the vast market of customers left waiting at the curb.

"The municipal traffic authorities are encouraging people to share taxis when they have the same route and direction," said Yao Kuo, head of the city's traffic authority.

But many still find it awkward to share a cab with a stranger — especially female passengers.

"I only [shared a cab] once, on a particularly rainy day," said Zhang Ying, a local resident. "Meeting someone by chance who is heading in the same direction is not easy."

"I reserve a taxi to save time," an office worker surnamed Xiao said. "But it would be a long wait to find another customer headed my way."

Taxi drivers seemed unhappy with



Students try to hail a taxi near their school in downtown Beijing.

Stephen Shaver/UPI/IC Photo

the idea of cab sharing as well.

"It's hard to get the passengers to cooperate on the route, even when each of them is saving nearly 20 percent of the cost," a taxi driver surnamed Wang said. "It's also hard to figure out who should get off first."

"More passengers add weight to the vehicle and increase our fuel costs," he said. "Most of us (taxi drivers) are unwilling to help passengers carpool."

With legal taxis unwilling to take multiple passengers, illegal drivers are picking up the slack. Many aggressively shout common destinations or routes to attract customers.

"We are not allowed to lure customers this way," a licensed taxi driver surnamed Wang said. "Our company requires us to be polite. If we could

operate like the private cars, we would be able to grab their market too."

Traffic authorities have said that taxi sharing is popular in South Korea, Germany and Australia, and that taxis serving a carpool can use bus lanes.

But observers said there need to be more concrete details to develop the new taxi service rather than vaporous words of "encouragement."

"They should set up carpooling stations at common gathering points, like railway stations, airports and major business streets," said Song Yang, an urban traffic consultant.

"How to calculate the cost for each passenger, the printing of receipts and route planning are all critical points to be considered," said Bai Zhigang, a researcher at the Beijing Academy of Social Sciences.

But some scholars support the government's current hands-off approach. Wang Jun, a professor of social sciences at Peking University, said authorities only need to ensure general regulation of the market rather than specifying exactly what is and isn't allowed.

"Why can't the authorities change the current system of taxi licensing to break up the monopoly?" the professor said. "The details on picking up passengers, printing receipts and setting up carpool stations could be left up to the drivers."

"The biggest problem is that the traffic authorities are just looking at business profits instead of solving the underlying problems," he said. "They are pruning branch issues while ignoring the core problems."

## Start-up contest gives students a head start

By Liu Xiaochen

The winners of the third College Students Start-up Contest were named last Friday at China Youth University for Political Sciences.

Ten teams attended the contest, including teams from Shantou University, China Youth University for Political Sciences and the Beijing Institute of Technology.

E-pension, a project by a team from China Youth University for Political Sciences, won first prize and the Social Innovation Award. The team from Shantou University was the runner-up, winning the Entrepreneurship Award for its project Green Ocean.

Winners were selected by a panel of judges that included Guo Wenjie, director of the Communist Youth



The contest aims to help students build their own business.

Photo provided to Beijing Today

League's Beijing Committee Business Department, Li Xiaobing, executive vice president of Beijing Youth Daily, and Li Jiahua, director of

the KAB Entrepreneurship Education Research Institute.

Li said it was encouraging to see students using entrepreneurship as a way to test and improve themselves irrespective of the competition.

Li said the success of an entrepreneurial venture depends on the people in the team. The members must be innovative, adventurous, professional and able to work together as a team.

The third competition began in December and was supported by the Beijing Municipal Corporation, the Beijing branch of the Postal Savings Bank of China and KAB Entrepreneurship Education Research Institute.

During the four months, organizers provided the teams selected for the final round of competition with the oppor-

tunity to attend Hong Kong's MaD Plenary Meeting and an Entrepreneurship Forum in Zhongguancun.

The organizers hope projects selected through the competition can help to combat social problems such as rising unemployment, inflation and ecological destruction. The goal is to find and promote college students who have new ideas about how entrepreneurship can function in the current social background.

After winning first prize, Zhou Hui, a member of the China Youth University for Political Sciences team, said the competition helped her to identify the weak points in her project and develop team spirit. The team said it plans to participate in other competitions to refine its platform.



# Leisure big business

## Vacation plans could ease economy as it slows

By Huang Daohen

China is slowing. GDP growth during the first quarter of 2012 fell to 8.1 percent year-on-year from an average of 9.2 percent last year.

Challenged by sluggish exports, the government hopes its cashed-up citizens will splurge to offset the impact of an ongoing global recession.

Yet the majority of Chinese people seem stuck on how to use their spare money: while they spend most of their time working and making money, they lack the leisure time to use it.



Chinese outbound travel is expected to exceed 80 million trips this year.

Chen Hao/ CFP Photo

### Hitting the road?

Miles Hu has just returned home from his journey to Tibet. He is already planning his next trip to the old town of Lijiang, Yunnan Province.

Hu, 26, works as an interpreter at a state-run enterprise in Beijing and earns around 8,000 yuan per month. But he is more like a backpacker. Last year, he planned a one-month trip that started in Thailand and continued through Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar and India.

"I just wanted to look around and put my time to good use even though I'm not rich," Hu said. "My urge to travel was so strong that I didn't hesitate to change my job to one that gave me more free time."

Hu was bit by the travel bug the first time he went abroad for business. During that trip, he participated in some NGO activities to help abandoned children in Pakistan.

Hu is not alone. Recent years have seen more young people hoping to travel – no matter whether it is within China or abroad.

"Life should not be as simple as our parents' generation, where all you did was stay home, earn money and raise a family," Hu said.

But while young people like Hu are increasingly hitting the road for adventure and self-exploration, "grown-ups" with more responsibilities remain confined to the office.

Thomas Lee said he would be very satisfied if he had a full month of paid leave each year, during which he could escape the capital. The married IT engineer works at a local private company where time off is unheard of.

While Lee has paid vacation days, the 31-year-old uses them to work overtime – which is also how he spends his weekends.

"Sometimes I really want to take a vacation, but we work under a tight schedule. None of my colleagues have asked for leave just because they want a vacation," Lee said.

There are also economic concerns. Lee said he would give up his vacation to earn more money and pay off his huge mortgage. He and his wife are also planning to have a child this year, which will mean even more spending.

For Lee, vacation plans have to wait.

### No time to spend

It's not only mortgage holders who can't escape the office. Many younger high-earners are also unable to secure time off, according to a survey by China Central Television (CCTV).

The annual Economic Life Survey, conducted by CCTV, the National Bureau of Statistics and several research institutes, spent four months polling people across the country about their consumption behavior and economic expectations.

The survey found that people living in high-income areas had the least leisure time. Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou, the cities with the highest per capita income, ranked poorly for leisure opportunities. Shanghai and Guangzhou occupied 117th and 95th place: Beijing ranked an abysmal 239th.

Shirley Wen, a researcher at Renmin University, called it a paradox of earnings. "You cannot have both leisure time and a high income unless you are exceptionally rich," she said.

For everyone else, leisure time and wealth remain locked in a delicate balancing act. Wen said that most people in China are willing to give up their leisure time if it means the chance to earn more money.

Among the respondents who had an annual income of more than 100,000 yuan, about 6 percent said that they didn't have any leisure time; the majority said they had two to three hours per week; and 30 percent said they had more than 10 hours per week.

### Indulging adds up

But if people are willing to spend on leisure – even for two hours per week –

it could mean huge profits when spread across the populace of 1.3 billion.

According to the CCTV survey, household expenditures on travel and fitness are on the rise while spending on food and other necessities has fallen sharply.

Statistics from the National Tourism Bureau show that outbound tourist numbers jumped to nearly 70 million last year from about 12 million in 2001.

Domestic travel is also booming, with the number of trips up from 780 million in 2001 to about 2 billion last year.

Chinese tourists spent more than \$69 billion in 2010, and are among the top spenders abroad. According to a Paris news report, Chinese tourists spent \$220.2 million in France in 2009.

This has attracted the attention of global hotel groups, who are retooling their image for the Chinese mainland.

Accor and InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG), two of the biggest hotel companies, are simultaneously a new China-specific brand to win more Chinese consumers.

Hualuxe, InterContinental's new brand to be launched in 2014, will provide a traditional tea house and a Chinese design.

In a statement, IHG said it plans to place the brand in 100 cities across the mainland.

Instead of creating a new brand, French hotel giant Accor said it would revamp its Grand Mercure brand that is already operating in China to include local design, tea, Chinese food and tai chi lessons.

Wen said she is confident that the hoteliers will succeed as more Chinese can afford and are willing to travel.

"During the past decades, Chinese people were enthusiastic about learning how to work and how to make money. Now they are learning how to play and enjoy their free time," Wen said.

"This is vital for the country's future economic growth," she said.

## Art show enters Auto China

By Huang Daohen

The upcoming Beijing International Automobile Exhibition (BIAE), also known as Auto China, one of the world's top four auto shows, promises visitors an eyeful of luxury cars, shiny models and new fashions.

But this year, the Beijing Auto Show, an 80-square-meter booth within the BIAE, hopes to introduce art and car culture to the event.

Launched by the Beijing Youth Daily Group, the exhibition will present a collection of artistic works featuring classic automobiles of the last century.

Twelve designers from Beijing Youth Daily will present their recent creations inspired by 20 classic automobile designs. The well-recognized car models will be represented in paintings, photographs and murals, as well as in sculptures and installations.

The collection is designed to spark discussion about automobile production, brand consumption, daily life and environmental protection, according to the event's organizers.

Yet the Beijing Auto Show is more than a nostalgic look at the history of automobiles – it is symbolic of a greater rethinking of the car industry, its history and car culture. The organizers hope the art can inspire visitors to learn more about automotive culture.

The exhibition, produced by Beijing Art, a new brand under the Beijing Youth Daily Group, is the group's fifth public display at Auto China since 1991.

The Beijing Auto Show will open its doors on April 23. It will be completely open to the public from April 27 to May 2.

Two years ago, the auto show was just beginning its rise to prominence: today, it is a recognized major event – a fact supported by the 120 high-end models set to debut.

Lamborghini is expected to unveil a new SUV in Beijing at the show. While it's a big deal any time Lamborghini does something new, an SUV would be a surprising move for the carmaker.

Porsche will present its Cayenne GTS, and Jeep will show off a concept version of its Wrangler SUV.

As for cars, BMW is bringing a long-wheelbase version of its latest 3-Series sedan, while Ford, Honda and Chrysler will have several production cars and concepts being retooled for the Chinese market.

There are also a surprising number of offerings from domestic carmakers BYD, Chery and Geely.



# A longtime expat reflects on her love for Beijing

By Wu Hao

Elyse Ribbons, a radio host at China Radio International, is proud of her Chinese name, Liu Suying.

"Su is a middle name meaning simplicity and plainness, related to nature," she said. "And ying sounds like cherry blossoms but is also related to 'hero,' combining delicate and strong."

Ribbons can be described as delicate and strong, too. She has acted in several Chinese films, and is a director who initiated Cheeky Monkey Theater. She is currently at the Central Academy of Drama studying directing and has plans to pursue a PhD after graduating this year.

Ribbons moved to China in 2003 just as SARS was raging and foreigners were evacuating.

She had been determined to return to China ever since she first studied here as an exchange student in 2001, when she was learning traditional Chinese concepts about health and medicine. She changed her major to Chinese after her experience in 2001.

"I got a great job in 2003 because most expats went back, so it was a pretty good opportunity," she said. "My mom is a nurse, so she understood that if you have a strong immunity and know how to keep healthy, there would be no problem."



Ribbons is currently a radio host in Beijing.

## Linking two languages

Ribbons decided not to pursue a career in medicine, joking that she was afraid of hurting others by giving them injections that make them uncomfortable.

Instead, she turned to acting, something that had interested her ever since she was young.

"I thought, I have to learn Chinese opera if I want to learn true Chinese culture and acting, and it might be good for improving my Chinese," she said. "But later, I became really fascinated by it and fell in love with it. I did it totally out of love and interest."

Ribbons said one has to dig deep into every word and gesture truly experience Chinese opera.

In 2006, she wrote and directed a play, *I Heart Beijing*, that won her publicity. It was a story about two women Chinese and an American living together in Beijing.

Afterwards, Ribbons produced six more plays, including *Green Eyes on Chinese* and *Tie Gemen* in 2011. A recurring theme throughout is cross-cultural issues. Ribbons addresses these through comedy and dance —

more importantly than anything, she wants her audience to laugh.

She is currently working on adapting a Western play into an opera, adding some traditional Chinese elements, like the erhu and Peking opera.

"I think the Chinese opera culture is really profound, but few people can understand it," she said. "I want to present it in a more modern way. It could be modern, like the lines in the *Red Lantern*."

She made a gesture and sang a line.

This year, Ribbons would also like to do more situational comedy, using settings like bars to illustrate cultural and gender differences. She is also seeking cooperation with online video companies to broadcast her shows to more Chinese audiences.

"Our goal is to communicate with more people," she said. "We couldn't earn money through plays, and no one is willing to come to a theater from far away — not to mention traffic jams — but they'll watch it online. This is how I connect art and profit."

## Developing drama in China

"The market for plays in Beijing hasn't been fully developed," Ribbons said.

She said the market is there, but plays and theaters of high quality are hard to find.

She thinks Beijing doesn't have a suitable place for small plays. The theater is either too small or super large, and the rent is too high as much as 1,000 yuan per night.

"Many theaters are too large, so that audiences and actors can't see each other's faces," she said. "That's quite awkward for the actors because they do it not for making money, but for communicating with the audience. If they can't see the faces, they will feel empty in their heart."

The theatergoing culture is also different. In the US, people dress up before heading out to a Broadway play. But here, people are always fighting traffic and rushing. It's not uncommon to see people enter a theater when the play has already started.

"The rhythm is too fast — people don't have the mood for plays," Ribbons said.

Ribbons said a talented writer in the US can get sponsorship, but in China, writers struggle to make a living and support their family. Many troupes don't last very long, because they can't make money.

Ribbons also feels annoyed by China's custom of overcharge for tickets. They become luxury items that can be given away as gifts, but it prices out ordinary people.

## A storyteller

Ribbons, however, doesn't regret being in Beijing, citing the city's excitement and "interesting and distinct culture."

As for the future, Ribbons hopes to win it as she goes.

"I'm that kind of person who doesn't like commitment, that's why I haven't been married," she said.

She's been working at China Radio International for the last three years but has never formally signed a contract. "It made me uncomfortable to realize we could

be tied together for a long time," she said.

Ribbons said she stays in Beijing because of the inspiration she gets every day and everywhere, and because she has fallen in love with Peking opera.

"I'm pretty sure that my whole life will be related to Beijing, but I'm not sure whether I'll live here most of the time," she said.

Now she is writing a book of her experiences in China, something like Sanmao's *Story in Sahara*. She said she appreciates Sanmao's simple way of writing about feelings in everyday life.

"My dream is to have a house both in Beijing and New York, have a kid, and continue to create plays and art," she said.



Ribbons developed her interest in acting when she was very young.

Photos provided by Elyse Ribbons





# British Embassy celebrates Olympic countdown

As Wednesday marks 100 days to go until the London 2012 Olympics, British Ambassador to China Sebastian Wood marked the day with a special event at Beijing Sport University.

Wood met Chinese Olympians and expressed his enthusiasm for the Games by supporting a 100-meter race "from Beijing to London," run by Olympic athletes and 100 students from the university. He also visited the rhythmic gymnastics team in training.

He said Britain is prepared to welcome the world to what promises to be greatest show on Earth. The Olympic Park will be glittering at the center of the events and celebrations demonstrating great British engineering, design, creativity and ingenuity.

The 100-meter race at Beijing Sport University was



Sebastian Wood leads a special event at Beijing Sport University to celebrate the 100-day Olympic countdown.

designed to symbolize the journey through all 30 modern Olympiads, including from Beijing to London.

Wood expressed his excitement about being in London for the opening ceremony and passed on messages from Prime Min-

ister David Cameron and Chair of the London Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games (LOCOG) Lord Sebastian Coe.

"I know Britain will be looking its best," Cameron said. "We've built brilliant new venues – on time and

within budget. We've got our city ready, and we are looking forward to welcoming the world."

"Fifteen thousand Olympic and Paralympic athletes from over 200 countries (and regions) are now in the final countdown of selection and

preparation for the London 2012 Games," Coe said. "In the UK, many thousands of people are preparing to welcome the world, in their roles as volunteers, torchbearers and performers in the London 2012 Festival."

(Xinhua)

## China mourns the loss of former Russian ambassador

By Liu Xiaochen

Lgor Alexeyevich Rogachev, the former Russian ambassador to China, passed away in a hospital on April 11 in Moscow shortly after his 80th birthday.

A final parting was held at the Russian Central Clinical Hospital that day, with hundreds of people – including some Chinese – paying their respects.

Chinese ambassador to Russia Li Hui, journalists from various media organizations and several of Rogachev's Chinese friends attended.

At the ceremony, the former Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing said that the China-Russia relationship was stabilized and the countries were able to become strategic partners was largely due to Rogachev's efforts.

Li Hui said Rogachev was an old friend of the Chinese people who was devoted to developing and promoting friendly Sino-Russian relations. The Chinese people and government will not forget him and his contributions, he said.

Rogachev spent 28 years living in China, 13 of which were as ambassador. His experiences with China began at a very early age.

Rogachev's father moved him into the Soviet consulate



Lgor Alexeyevich Rogachev  
Photo from China Pictorial

in Urumqi, when was just a month old. At age 4, he moved to the Soviet consulate in Harbin, Heilongjiang Province with his family and lived there for three years.

After Rogachev was appointed translator of the Soviet embassy in 1958, he attended many high-level meetings and had a chance to interact with China's most senior leaders. Eventually, he would meet them all, including Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai, Deng Xiaoping, Jiang Zemin, Hu Jintao and Wen Jiabao.

Rogachev's experience in China coincided with periods of turmoil and peace. He was

there when relations between the Soviet Union and China ruptured, and he was there after the USSR fell, too. He oversaw the establishment of a strategic cooperative partnership between China and Russia.

He was the embassy counselor in 1969. From 1987 to 1991, he was part of the negotiation delegation in the Soviet Union. In April 1992, he was appointed by President Yeltsin as the Russian ambassador to China and the country's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary.

Rogachev's Chinese name is Luo Gaoshou, which is also his father's name in Chinese. His father was one of the Soviet Union's most famous sinologists and translators, who worked in China for 12 years and translated many Chinese books, including *Journey to the West* and *Outlaws of the Marsh*.

During his lifetime, Rogachev said his life was always connected with China. "I will do my best to feel the change of China if possible," he said.

He is survived by his daughter, who works at the Interfax News Agency in Beijing, and his grandson, a student at the University of International Relations in Moscow, who is learning Chinese.

## Direct flights between Beijing and Warsaw to open

By Liu Xiaochen

With the UEFA European Championships around the corner, LOT Polish Airlines will offer direct flights from Beijing to Warsaw starting May 30. At the same time, Chinese people will be able to apply for tourist visas online.

LOT Polish Airlines announced in February that direct flights between Beijing and Warsaw were coming. Tickets will begin to be sold on April 20.

The flights will be on the Boeing 767 aircraft.

Departure from Beijing will be every Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning. From Warsaw, the flight will take off every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday afternoon.

LOT Polish Airlines opened this direct route in 2008, but closed it because of a lack of travelers a few months later.

After the Polish government announced its "Go China" plan in March, the Poland Tourism Bureau announced that Chinese people can not only book flights on the official website of LOT Polish Airlines, but also can apply for tourist visas on Polish embassy's website.

Flights and even restaurant reservations can also be made on systemonline.pl. Moreover, one-stop service such as the "Polish Pass" also provides elec-

tronic coupons.

A press conference for the UEFA European Championships which starts in June in Poland and Ukraine was held by the Polish embassy on April 11. The four Polish cities that will host the event are Warsaw, Poznan, Gdansk and Wroclaw.

The Polish ambassador to China, Tadeusz Chomicki, the visa officer of the Polish embassy and a veteran sportscaster attended this press conference. They answered questions about the country's preparation, visa issues, accommodation and traffic.

Chomicki said he hoped to promote the country, which is expecting an influx of visitors during the soccer tournament.

Poland passed a special law on safety last summer, providing legal support for public security during the European Championships and other public activities. Poland's police delegation visited China last year and spoke with related officers about their experience during the Beijing Olympics.

Chomicki said 95 percent of construction is done.

The president of UEFA, Michel Platini, is satisfied with Poland's preparation. He said he trusts the governments of Poland and Ukraine, though challenges remain.



# Kony 2012 inspires Chinese group to do more

By Han Manman

The now-famous 30-minute Kony 2012 video that urged people to pay attention to wanted African warlord Joseph Kony called for a "Cover the Night" campaign on April 20. People around the world are supposed to cover the streets with Kony posters and pictures on that night.

It's fair to question whether that event will still happen, considering one of the video's producers, Jason Russell, founder of Invisible Children, a San Diego-based international NGO, had a very public meltdown in San Diego.

In China, however, "Cover the Night" will still happen, according to organizers on the ground – specifically a group of netizens who formed "Kony 2012 in China" (KIC), which seeks to promote the Kony 2012 campaign.



Joseph Kony

Wang Tianxi, one of the founders of KIC and a university student in Hunan Province, began preparing for the April 20 campaign almost immediately after watching the Kony video on March 5.

He predicts that thousands of Chinese will hit the streets in their communities today in a culmination of KIC's efforts.

Wang stumbled upon the Kony 2012 video on March 5 on Youku. He was taken by Invisible Children's efforts to bring the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), an army of children led by Joseph Kony, to international attention.

Invisible Children began in 2003 when three young filmmakers took a trip to Africa looking for a story. They made a documentary about Kony and the LRA, *Rough Cut*, which was produced in 2005. Invisible Children officially became a non-profit organization in 2006.

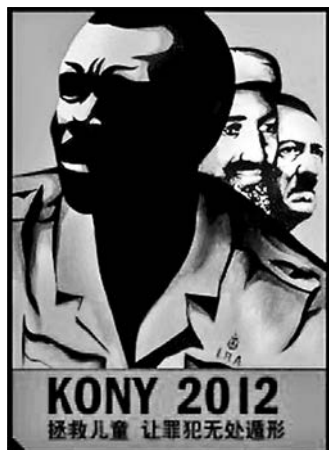
For the past several years, the organization has been focusing its efforts on raising awareness about Kony and the LRA by creating videos and screening them at high schools and colleges across the country every month. Its purpose is to rescue child soldiers who are kidnapped and forced to be sex slaves.

The video urged people to write to cultural figures and policymakers to bring Kony's crimes to the light. It has been an almost instant viral success, dominating Twitter and having one of the fastest ever take-offs on YouTube. Some are calling it the most viral video in history.

The April 20 campaign was Invisible Children's biggest initiative. The organization wants to put Kony's name and face everywhere – T-shirts, posters, banners, sidewalks – so that people



More than 40,000 people in China are involved in the Kony 2012 campaign.



Kony 2012 poster in Chinese



Photos provided by KIC

around the world learn about his crimes.

After watching the video, Wang and other netizens set up KIC to promote the Kony 2012 campaign in China. Through social networks, they've set up branches in more than 30 provinces and cities and enlisted 40,000 people. Its official Sina Weibo page has hundreds of thousands of followers.

"I was so angry when I

saw the Kony 2012 video," said Ran Jie, a KIC member. "Kony is a horrible evil from a distant corner of the world. We are all human beings, we should take action together to fight for the cause of justice."

Ran said she will wear a Kony 2012 T-shirt and put posters on the street.

While the campaign has generated positive feedback, it also received a lot of nega-

tive backlash.

A major criticism of the campaign was that the LRA has significantly weakened in recent years, and that Invisible Children overstated the army's current power.

Many critics, including from the Ugandan government, slammed the video for oversimplifying a complex problem and leaving viewers with the impression that Kony was still in Uganda.

Kony and his few hundred followers are believed to be roaming the remote jungles straddling the borders of Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Central African Republic.

Other critics said the video did not effectively urge users to actually do anything other than share on social media and buy things from the organization.

Questions were also raised about the NGO's financial transparency. Statistics show that only 37 percent of the

Invisible Children's budget actually goes to helping Africa's "invisible children."

Video of Russell's meltdown – in which he ran outside naked and started masturbating in public – went viral, making him a target for criticism. His wife said social media explosion took their toll on the entire family and Russell has been diagnosed with "reactive psychosis."

On April 5, Invisible Children released a follow-up video that encouraged viewers to see themselves as global citizens in a close-knit world.

It has, however, only received about a half-million views.

But supporters still abound, including the members of KIC.

"Kony 2012 is the most dramatic demonstration so far of how an idea can spread over the globe through social media," Wang said.

"I think that the Kony 2012 campaign has been a well orchestrated effort to raise awareness of a serious issue, and we should applaud the effort," said Tiffany Easthom, country director of Nonviolent Peaceforce in South Sudan. "As someone who works in the field of conflict and protection, I am exceptionally glad to see a broad base of people become aware of these serious issues and that people are willing to take action."

For Wang and other KIC members, the meaning of KIC is not just about today's campaign.

Wang said. "We need a certain thing or a certain power to bring people together to push forward public welfare in China."

Wang said that Kony 2012 is a great example of how social networking can inspire people to get behind public issues.



# Challenges of raising earthworms at home

By Annie Wei

In 2009, a project about using earthworms' waste to grow organic fruits and vegetables caused a swell of public interest. It failed.

In fact, while more and more families and schools have started raising earthworms to help compost flowers and vegetables on their balconies or in gardens, they're finding that the process can be tricky.

"Raising earthworm is not easy as it sounds," said Han Baixing from the China Volunteers group who started encouraging locals to raise earthworms in 2009. "There are some key issues one should really be aware of."



Hai Baixing gives earthworms to local residents. CFP Photo

Recipes for failure include pouring kitchen waste directly into the worms' compost box; some foods are

not suitable for the worms – especially congee. Exposing the worms to the elements is another sure way to worms

shorten their – caught in a storm – are done for.

Han plans to re-launch his earthworm-raising program with some families in Dongcheng District in a low-key fashion in the near future.

He advises that families feed their worms fresh fruits and vegetables. He also said that patience is necessary: don't be so quick to give up.

"We tell the families that raising worms is a way to clean kitchen garbage, and the worms' waste can be used for their own gardens," Han said.

People interested in growing their own food do not need to have their own plot of land; they can easily do it at home with the help of earthworms.

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: weiyang@ynet.com

**I have played racquetball for 12 years and don't want to stop. Where I can find a racquetball court in Beijing. It doesn't matter where, although Chaoyang would be nice.**

The Beijing Hilton Hotel Fitness Center in Chaoyang District offers a racquetball court in its fitness facility. It is large and the service is good. You can call at 6466 2288.

**Is there any market where I can purchase Red Rooster Sriracha Hot Sauce?**

You'll be hard-pressed to find that brand in Beijing. We know that the Aliensma Company can order Thai sauces. Call at 6029 1565 to inquire.

**I am not accustomed to the weather in Beijing and am having migraines. I heard acupuncture can help. Can you recommend a good acupuncturist?**

You should visit the hospital to ask for suggestions from the doctor. Beijing Zhongyi Hospital has an Acupuncture Department with experts who can treat migraines. The hospital number is 5217 6677.

**I am planning a costume party, and I wonder if there's a place for cosplay stuff, including gothic clothes.**

On the 6th floor of Soshow Mall at Chongwenmen District, there are several cosplay costume shops. They offer stuff ranging from dresses to wigs. You can easily find the mall near the Chongwenmen subway station.

**I am living at Wudaokou and I am having trouble finding a Korean market nearby. I heard that there is an E-Mart in China, but I can't seem to locate the place.**

There is an E-mart in Beijing, but it is in Fengtai District, which is far from Wudaokou. It's near Majiapu Station on Subway Line 4. If you take the subway from Haidian Huangzhuang Station, it will take you an hour to get there. It is located at 106 Majiapu Dong Lu. Or you can try the Korean Lotte Mart, which is near Dazhongsi station on Subway Line 13.

(By Wei Ying)

## How to keep earthworms

### Keep worms away from gardens

Most people think that putting earthworms in their garden will automatically fertilize the soil. This is not the case, said Chen Lin, a member of Greensoc.org, a Shanghai-based environmental NGO that promotes raising earthworms among urban residents.

The worms eat rotten food, and if you throw leftovers in the garden, it will raise the soil's temperature up to 50 C as the food decays. Meanwhile, the worms might migrate to other areas of the house.

Chen suggests having special worm bins.

### Make a compost bin

Han says composting begins with a garbage box. Drill some holes into a plastic bucket's bottom and cover, and put the bucket on a plate. Place some stones in the bucket and cover it with a filtering cloth to create a comfortable habitat for the worms.

After a few weeks, you will see liquid oozing onto the plate. This is produced by the worms. Dilute the liquid with water in a 1-to-100 ratio and use the solution to water your plants. It will make them grow

healthy and protect them from pests.

Han says earthworms feast on vegetables, fruit peels and feces. Dry substances like nutshells should first be softened by soaking them in water. Rotten vegetables and leftover food with too much salt can poison the worms.

### Buy the right earthworm

There are special earthworm farms if you are looking to buy some, Chen says. You can also find the worms at flower and pet markets. Choose red earthworms used as fish and turtle bait.

Han says that under ideal

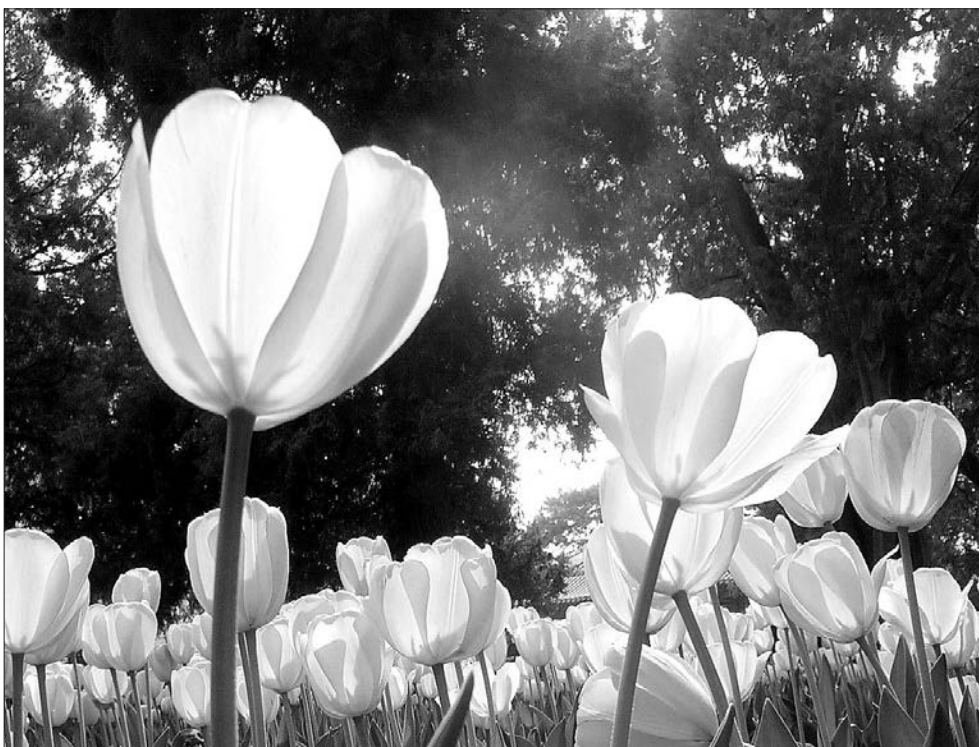
conditions, 1 kilogram of earthworms can consume the equivalent weight of kitchen garbage each day and produce half a kilogram of waste.

The worm's fermenting process will produce a sour smell, so take good care of your compost bins.

### Retrieve fertilized soil

Sieve the bin to separate fertilized soil from the worms. Another way is to place the bin under the sun: expose the portion where the most worms are gathered and they will crawl to the part in shadows. Now you can move that soil to your garden.

## Tulips blossom



By Annie Wei

Hundreds of kinds of tulips are blossoming at Beijing Zhangshan Park through mid-May. It's the 17th tulip exhibition at the park, which also hosts exhibitions of cherries, orchids and peonies every year.

Where: west side of the Tian'anmen Square, 4 Zhonghua Lu, Dongcheng District

Open: 9 am – 5 pm

Tel: 6605 5431

Cost: 10 yuan

CFP Photo





Clone game

# Retrospective illuminates

By Annie Wei

Feminist artist Chen Qingqing held a retrospective exhibition at Today Art Museum last month.

The collection showed more than 100 of her installations made during the last 20 years, especially those related to her activity in the feminist movement of the 1990s.

Chen, 59, is known to the public for her strong personal style and her feminist subject matter, including dresses, flowers and fairy tales. Rather than focusing on sex, her works discuss love, life, humanity and her reflections on society and history.

Many viewers were impressed by the simple and cultured way she expressed her views. Each piece combines innovative visual language and artistic concepts.

Chen's most famous piece is her installation that uses manufactured articles and silk apparel, which established her as one of the first practitioners of contemporary installation in the country.

Her work was praised by critic Zhu Qi as "exquisite but majestic, imposing but feministic. It shows a feminine will that drives inward and affection and a personal linguistic imagination full of penetrating power."

"To summarize my works in short: they are from my personal experience. They are female," Chen said. "They have a gender identity. They are the product of a woman's understanding of the world."

The exhibition also showed her lighting installations, videos of her early performance art, her *Dark Memory*, *Clone* and *Female* series, *Entertainment Must Go On* from her 1998 period and some of her sculptures and works made of natural fibers.

When working with natural materials, Chen favors silk, ramie, dry flowers, stems and leaves. She interlaces the silk and ramie and inserts the flowers, stems and leaves between the fibers.

Some of her most famous ramie pieces include *Xi Shi* (name of one of the most beautiful women in Chinese history), *Red Fitted In White* and *Cherry*, which are formed in dresses and adornments from different dynasties. Other installation works like *In Rose Chair*, *Dialogue – My Coffin*, *Romance in the Passed Night* and *Folding Screen* are filled with female elements like the uterus, and many delicate and complicated structures and metaphors.

Her precise yet carefree application of various materials indicates the woman's tender and sensitive inner world, said Tao Yongbai, another contemporary art critic.

Unlike most Chinese installation artists who branched off from traditional paintings, Chen became an artist in her 40s. By that age, she had lived through the Cultural Revolution, studied acupuncture, edited a magazine and managed a small business.

But mainstream life left her feeling empty, Tao said. "In 1994, when she was already well past her youth, she started experimenting with installation art and found that she could free her soul through art."

Chen said her first 10 years as an independent artist were not easy, burning up all her savings, but she is approaching her 60s with a positive attitude.

Each morning, she takes a stroll in her favorite ramie fabric, a material she considers much like a woman – tough, soft and persistent.

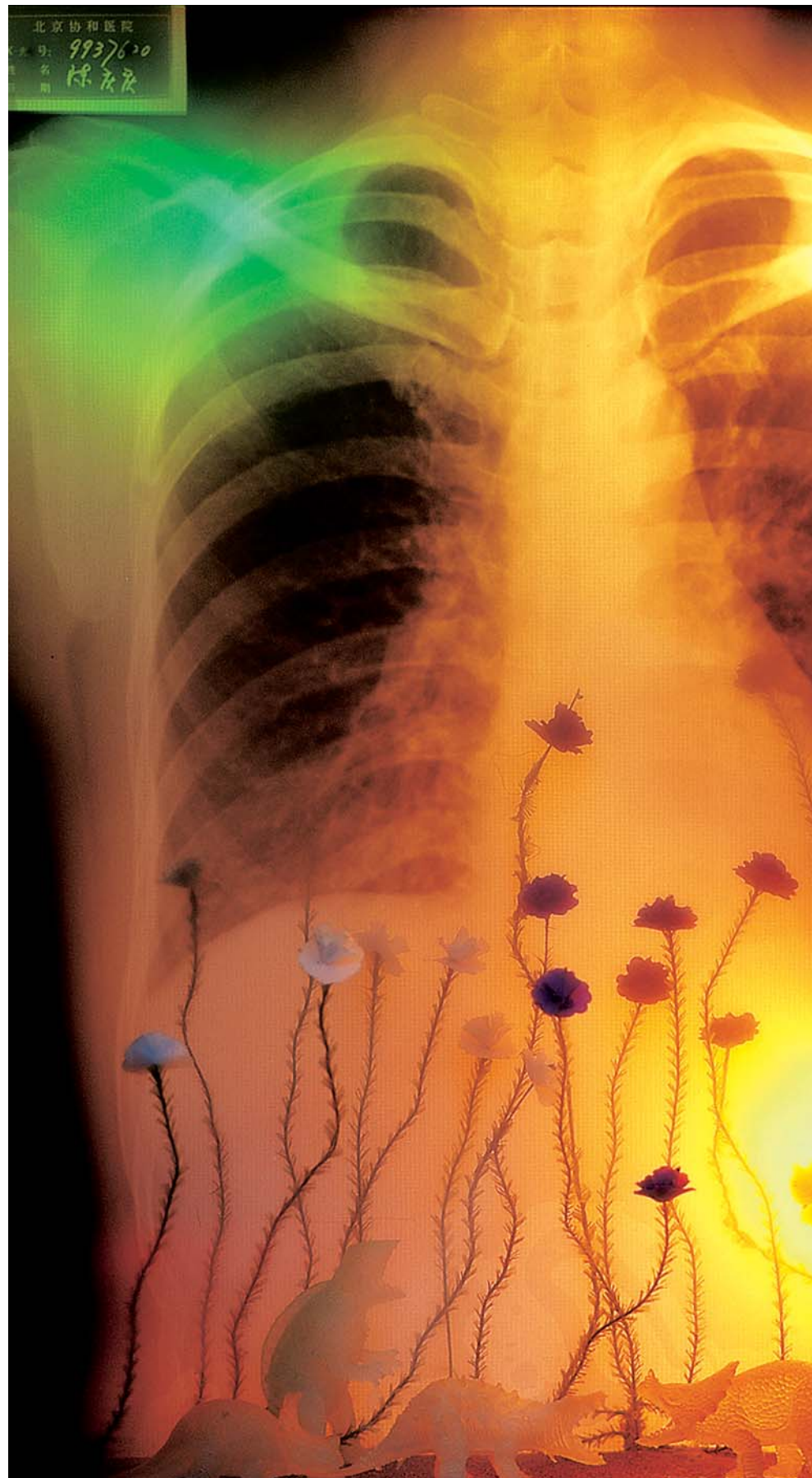
Handling materials and finding their optimal lighting environment requires time and energy. Without the right lighting, it's hard to see the texture and details of her work, she said.

For this retrospective, the lighting was sponsored by Phillips Lighting using new PureDetail technology that allows Chen to create multi-directional lighting for each piece.

Chen was happy with the new technology and the exhibition result. "It helped me to present all of my works at once and show their substantial change," Chen said.

Chen said the exhibition does not mark an end to her artistic exploration – it is more like a time for review and personal tidying. She said she would continue her career.

"Art is a channel to free the soul and installations are just the vessels of the metamorphosis," she said.



My Lung and My Oxygen Bar, from Chen Qingqing's *Dark Memory* series





# 20 years of a woman's soul



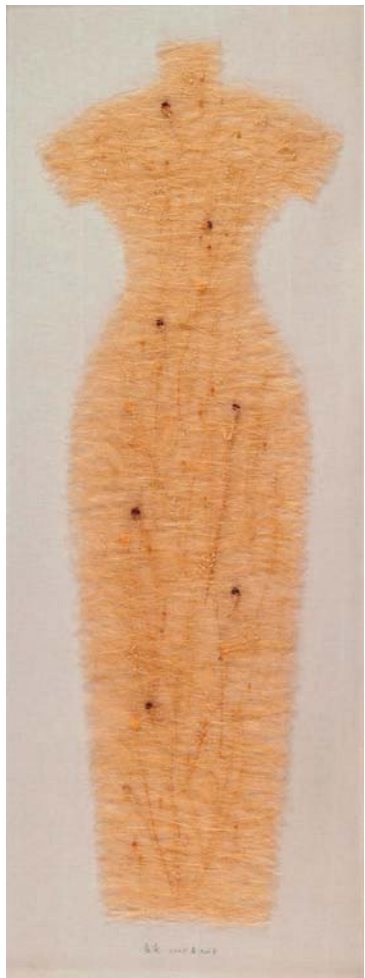
Romance in the Passed Night, 2006



Mixed material installation, 2005



Weicheng (the besieged city), 2006



Chen Qingqing's ramie work



Cherry, 2008



Wu & Eng, 2010

Photos provided by Dimansion



# Future to be shaped by mass migration

By Han Manman

With a third of humanity on the move, new urban spaces are becoming the focal points of conflict and change that will reconfigure the world economy during the new century.

The first major investigation into the subject, *Arrival City: How the Largest Migration in History is Reshaping Our World*, was written by Canadian journalist and author Doug Saunders in 2005.

This month, his bestselling book is published in Chinese.

Saunders takes readers on a detailed tour of 30 cities and villages in China, India, Bangladesh and Poland and several international cities. He portrays a diverse group of people as they struggle to make drastic transitions and tells the story of their journey and the history of their often multi-generational family struggles.

Saunders calls the transitional places "arrival cities," where anything ranging from economic boom to explosive violence is possible.

Many of the new arrivals are migrating from rural villages to escape from "the largest single killer of humans today." According to the World Food Program, three-quarters of the world's billion people who live in hunger are peasant farmers who face infant mortality and reduced life expectancy.

Saunders tells stories of rural newcomers struggling to find a new place to live using a network of people that begins in their home village. They send money home to relatives and others left behind and suffer prejudice and anger from their new neighbors.

When Saunders wrote the book in 2005, almost three-quarters of the developing world's governments told researchers that they felt they needed to restrict rural-urban migration. Many cited the migration as being associated with destructive drug gangs in Brazil, Hindu nationalists in Mumbai and Islamic extremists in Europe.

It is a profound problem. While successful arrival cities create a thriving middle class, failed arrival cities breed poverty and discontent.

The key, Saunders said, is to see the opportunity of such arrival cities.

By providing newcomers with a way to acquire citizenship, a chance to own property, access to education and transportation and public security, cities like Sao Paulo in Brazil or Parla in Spain have succeeded in integrating migrants.

"*Arrival City* also tells a lot about China. It is very much concerned with China's rapid urbanization. It contains field studies I conducted in a huge squatter city in Chongqing, an 'urbanizing' village in Sichuan and among a group of frustrated dormitory workers in Shenzhen," Saunders said.

Many countries will have a labor shortage by 2030, and China is hoping to combat the problem by starting programs to import workers from sub-Saharan Africa and the Indian subcontinent, he said.

"Soon, the very countries so opposed to immigrants will find themselves engaged in active recruitment of them," he said.

"Serious, mightily researched, lofty and humane, *Arrival City* is packed with salient detail and could hardly be more timely. It feels like a game changer; it should certainly be a policy changer," *The New York Times* said.

Saunders is the European Bureau Chief and foreign correspondent for *The Globe and Mail* and the author of a popular and award-winning weekly column devoted to the intellectual ideas and social developments behind the news.

He has written extensively from Asia, Europe, the Middle East and the Americas and has won the National Newspaper Award, Canada's equivalent of the Pulitzer Prize, on four occasions.

*Arrival City* has been published in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese and Finnish.

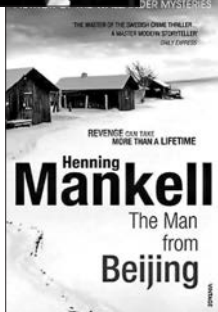
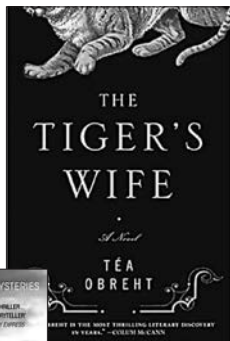
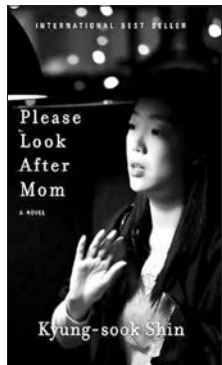


Doug Saunders



**Arrival City: How the Largest Migration in History is Reshaping Our World**  
By Doug Saunders, 351 pages, 26yuan

## Bookworm book listing



### The Man From Beijing

By Henning Mankell, 464pp, Vintage, \$14.

The latest page-turner from Henning Mankell, a master of the crime genre, follows a case that spans the globe and the centuries. The people of a quiet hamlet in northern Sweden are slaughtered and a judge in a distant town makes a family connection that leads her on a search for answers. In order to solve the riddle, her quest takes her through the records of Chinese immigrants working on the American railroads in 1860, through her own past as a student revolutionary and all the way to Beijing.

### The Tiger's Wife

By Tea Obreht, 352pp, Random House, \$25

*The Tiger's Wife*, the debut novel of Serbian-American writer

Tea Obreht, is a brilliant work of storytelling. The novel follows a young doctor piecing together the circumstances of her grandfather's death; the grandfather in his own curious upbringing and interactions with "the deathless man"; and the inhabitants of a small village in Yugoslavia who were visited by an escaped zoo tiger that changed their lives. The story is a rich narrative full of fascinating characters in a setting that mixes the realities of war and the hardships of poverty with superstition, magic and the surreal. The book won the 2011 Orange Prize for Fiction, making Obreht the youngest recipient of the prize.

### Please Look After Mom

By Kyung-sook Shin, 256pp, Knopf, \$24.95

This novel from widely acclaimed Korean author Shin

focuses on motherhood and family guilt. Park So-nyo, mother of four now-adult children, has gone missing in a Seoul train station on the way to visit them. The novel is told in four parts, from the perspectives of her daughter, her firstborn son, her husband and So-nyo herself. Composed almost entirely in second-person narration, the writing is sharp, biting and intensely moving. So-nyo's children continually battle with their own guilt for not taking better care of her while reminiscing about childhood, growing up in incredible poverty in the countryside. The children come to terms with their mother's absence in their own ways, and their father repents for a lifetime of neglect. The bestseller is an impressive exploration of love, poverty and triumph over hardship.

(By Han Manman)



# Latin beats on a spring night

By Zhang Xiaoran

Walk into CD Blues Café on a Tuesday night and you're sure to be swept over by the heat fire being played by Los Amigos.

The Latin jazz band's songs swing from fast and passionate to slow and romantic, and they know how to get club-goers out of their seats and dancing.

Band leader Song Liang dreamed of having a Latin music band since he was young – it was the allure of the impossible for a six-year-old who was only allowed to study accordion.

Years later, while studying music at college, Song got his first introduction to Latin rhythm, and he and his friend Gao Xing, the band's conga player, headed to Cuba to learn more.

Song and Gao were the first Chinese music students to go to Cuba. In July 2009, Song, the drummer, Liu Dongfeng, pianist, and Sheng Zhi, bassist, began to practice together. When Gao joined with his congas and Wang Zongxing his saxophone, their first five-man lineup took shape.

Since their debut performance at A Lan Ting music bar in August 2010, Los Amigos have been on the rise.

The band's style is heavily influenced by Cuban artists, and its most loyal fans are salsa lovers. Looking to give their fans more dancing room, they relocated to CD Blues, which has a larger stage and a wooden dance floor.

Since then, they have recruited two more members: Yang Ming, a trombonist, and Shi Yuji, a second sax player. Most of the members are between 26 and 35 years old and they have 10 years of professional experience. A few also teach music.

Los Amigos' creative process is highly collaborative. They write together and practice their way through most disagreements.

Latin jazz is a sub-genre of jazz based on Latin rhythms that is popular throughout Central and South America. Cuba is the most important center of the style's development and production.

Locally, Latin jazz is largely unknown and has only a few dedicated fans. Los Amigos is the first and only local band working exclusively within the genre. The recognition from their musical peers and fans has inspired the band to expand their Latin repertoire to include other styles like salsa.

In addition to their Tuesday performances at CD Blues, Los Amigos are playing monthly at Jianghu Bar in Dongmianhua Hutong.

CD Blues is the capital's first jazz bar and often invites top jazz bands to play on its stage.

Where: CD Blues

When Tuesday nights

Cost: 50 yuan cover charge, includes one drink

Web: weibo.com/u/2462717425



Members and friends of the Latin jazz band Los Amigos

Photos by Shi Xinxin



Los Amigos plays every Tuesday at CD Blues Café.



# Shopping for the brightest color

By Annie Wei

Within the fashion jungle, there are must-have items and must-have colors every season.

For example, nude, pink nude and orange were "in" the last couple of years. But this summer, the color to own is yellow. Its brightness makes paler women look younger and more feminine; it also helps darker-skinned women look more energetic with its sun-kissed tone.

*H&M woven hat*

A must-have to shield your face from sunshine, it's pretty and practical.

*Emilio Pucci dress*

This summer, a bright yellow silk gown or evening dress will make you the most popular girl at a party.



*Staccato leather bag*

As one of Belle Group's best female shoe brands, the Staccato bag is in the style of international brand Chloe's tote bag, but more affordably priced.



*H&M clutch*

Everyone likes the style of the Bottega Veneta clutch bag. Fashion chains like H&M carry copies of the design, offering it to more people at affordable prices.



*H&M nail polisher*

Summer is the season for brightly colored nails. These colors are like candy for your fingers and toes, able to lighten up your mood.



*Versace watch*

More fashion brands have entered the luxury watch market. Versace even had its booth at Basil last month.



*Calvin Klein*

The yellow silk top and shorts with a tint of green are like a breeze – refreshing.

*Moschin vs Kartell flats, 1,250 yuan*

Kartell, an Italian furniture brand known for its plastic products, releases a shoe collection with different fashion brands every year. The plastic is made of techno polymer thermoplastic and recycled materials, with zero toxins.

It's lightweight and smooth to the touch.

This year, Kartell is working with Moschin. The ballet shoes look sweet and are always popular among young women.



CFP Photos

## H&M

Where: 16 Nansanhuan Xi Lu, Fengtai District

Open: 10 am – 9 pm

Tel: 8757 7838

## Calvin Klein

Where: Ground floor, Guomao Shopping Mall, 1 Jianguomen Wai Dajie

Tel: 10 am – 10 pm

Tel: 6505 2288

## Emilio Pucci and other yellow dresses

Online stores at

store.taobao.com/?shop\_id=60362029



# Fish time

By Annie Wei

The weeks after Tomb-Sweeping Festival are the best time to eat shrimp, crab and fish.

Blowfish is one of the favorites for gastronomists. Every year around this time, they swim from the ocean back to the Yangtze River to reproduce. When they swim to Yangzhou and Zhengjiang, they are at their fattest.

Due to overfishing, however, most blowfish on the market today are farmed.

Because the fish is toxic, the chef will first try the fish and drink its soup in front of the guests. If the chef survives, diners are then allowed to eat 15 minutes later.

The meat is delicious and tender, with chewy skin, far better than fish wings or abalone.

Another highly recommended fish is the anchovy. Zhuo Yin, a young woman from Jiangsu Province who loves food, gave us an example of how delightful the fish can be.

One time, dining with friends in Nanjing, everyone managed to stuff themselves beyond capacity. The meal wasn't over, however. A local diver said he pulled some connections and was able to get them anchovy at the price of 3,000 yuan per 500 grams.

"We didn't think we could eat another bite, but the anchovy was so good that the dish was finished within a minute," Zhuo said.

Zhuo said that while anchovies have many small bones, they can sometimes be swallowed if they're soft enough.

Customers who are worried, however, can order the anchovy wanton, which is boneless.

The Yangtze River produces thousands of varieties of fish, many that are only available seasonally. Prices, therefore, will vary according to the supply.

## Dayonghui Jiuliu

Where: 45 Zengguang Lu, Haidian District

Open: 11 am – 9 pm

Tel: 8856 1006

## Futaigong

Where: 1-3 floor, Zhongtie Gongcheng Dasha, south square of Beijing West Railway Station, Lianhuachi Dong Lu, Fengtai District

Open: 11 am – 9 pm

Tel: 5189 2677



Blowfish



Coilia



Huiyu

CFP Photos

# The Wine Gallery

By Annie Wei

In 2007, one of the leading wine distributors, ASC Fine Wines, opened its Wine Residency in Shanghai, a combination of wine education, promotion, event, food pairing, retail and clubbing.

Since, it has arrived in Beijing with the store Wine Gallery in Sanlitun.

ASC offers a member cellar service. Members who spend 100,000 yuan per year will enjoy a special discount for any wine they purchase, plus cellar service. One can pay 12,000 yuan per year for a locker, which can store up to 50 bottles.

The winery has a wide collection, with Australian wines starting from 200 yuan per bottle more premium selections. Delivery is available to nearby residences with a minimum order of 500 yuan.

The first floor has several exhibition areas for wine, Riedel wine glasses and small-scale wine tasting. It also has a wine bar with dispensers that offer wine samplers starting at 25 milliliters.

The cellars are equipped with temperature and humidity control mechanisms. The second floor has private rooms for wine lectures and tastings and its terrace on the third floor is a good spot for summer drinking.

## ASC Wine Gallery

Where: N3-17/28, The Village North, Sanlitun 11, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am – 10 pm

Tel: 6415 1910



The retail section



The Wine Gallery has 140 lockers.

Photos provided by ASC Fine Wines



## Dining



### Old Beijing extravaganza at Dynasty

Experience Old Beijing with select delicacies at Dynasty Plaza.

Enjoy a fabulous selection of typical refreshments, such as Ai Wowo (sticky rice with sweet filling) and Mending Roubing (beef in a crepe), in addition to the popular roast duck, delectable seafood, barbecued meats and an array of tempting desserts. Enjoy free refills on your wine, cocktails, beer, fruit juices and soft drinks.

Come and enjoy these time-honored local foods, experience the flavor of Old Beijing and rediscover the glamor of the ancient imperial city.

Where: Traditional Beijing Extravaganza, 50 Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: Daily, 6-10 pm

Cost: 268 net per person

Tel: 5816 8888 ext. 8298

Email:

info@sunworlddynasty.com.cn

### Secretary's Day specials at Elements

Elements is serving a sumptuous lunch buffet of seafood, fresh salads, Asian and international dishes and alluring desserts.

Where: Hilton Beijing, 1 Dongfang Lu, Dongsanhuan Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

When: April 25

Cost: 228 yuan per person; half-off for secretaries who come with their boss (15 percent gratuity)

Tel: 5865 5000

## Course

### Ballet courses

Dulwich College Beijing is offering two new ballet courses.

Children seven and up can head to the school's Legend Gardens campus to train under ISTD- and RAD-certified instructor Natalie Craig for nine weeks for 960 yuan. Craig will guide students through the essential techniques to improve posture, strength and grace.

Children between the ages of five and seven can attend the school's Riviera campus to join Shi Yuzhong and develop their love of dance and music. Her classes last eight weeks and cost 840 yuan.

All classes can be prorated, but check with the school for exact dates and times.

Where: Dulwich College Beijing, Legend Garden Campus, 89 Capital Airport Road

When: Every Monday

Tel: 6454 9127

### Secretary Week Specials at One East

The award-winning One East is serving a "Business Lunch 2-for-1" all week. Each secretary will receive one complimentary strawberry cocktail.

Where: Hilton Beijing, 1 Dongfang Lu, Dongsanhuan Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

When: April 23-27, noon - 3 pm

Cost: two-course lunch set for two is 128 yuan; three-course lunch set for two is 138 yuan (15 percent gratuity)

Tel: 5865 5000



### Classic and modern cocktails

Join us at Aria Bar for an exciting journey through a selection of classic and modern cocktails such as the Perfect Manhattan, Mojito, Asian Mary and Bajito.

Where: Aria Bar, China World Hotel, 1 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District When: May 1-31 Tel: 6505 2266 ext. 36



### Strawberry lush

Our special strawberry cocktails are accompanied by carefully selected strawberry sweets that make Strawberry Lush one of spring's most irresistible joys.

Where: Hilton Beijing, 1 Dongfang Lu, Dongsanhuan Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

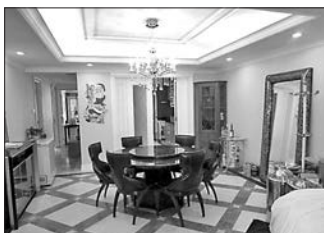
When: Until April 30

Cost: strawberry cocktails 68 yuan per glass; strawberry lush combo 86 yuan per person (15 percent gratuity)

Tel: 5865 5000



## Rent



### 3br, 223 sqm in Chateau Edinburgh between Lufthansa and CBD

This three-bedroom, 223-square-meter apartment comes with nice furniture and appliances and is located midway up the building.

It has three cozy bedrooms, two full bathrooms, a large living room and a modern kitchen. The rooms are spacious, and the rent is only 25,000 yuan per month with management and heating fees included.

It is within a 5-minute walk of the Tuanjiehu subway station,

and located near a new clubhouse with a swimming pool, sauna, yoga classes and gym.

Contact: 13426267233



### 2br, 118 sqm apartment in MOMA

This amazing two-bedroom apartment is in the new MOMA complex at Dongzhimen. The room is comfortable and tidy. It has 24-hour access to hot water, an elevator and security system. Rent is 9,500 yuan per month. Call to inquire about other options.

Contact: Lesa 13391512823

Email:

basketball643@yahoo.cn



### 1br in CBD's Private Castle

This 85-square-meter apartment is located on Sanlitun, east of Workers' Stadium. The central business district, Lufthansa commercial area and Airport Express are a short drive away.

The property is surrounded by shopping malls, restaurants, banks and supermarkets, a wonderful place to live. The building is brand new, and so are the furniture and appliances. It is close to the Hujialou subway station.

Contact: 18611415297

Email:

zhaozgc@hotmail.com

## Workshops

### Photography workshop

Get professional advice from veteran photographer Peter Carney in this photography shooting and editing session in a hutong and historic area.

Where: Culture Yard, 10 Shique Hutong, Beixinqiao, Dongcheng District

When: April 21, 10 am - 6 pm

Cost: 500 yuan

Tel: 8404 4166

### Introduction to Pu'er tea

This workshop teaches everything about Pu'er tea: how to choose it, prepare it, store it, where it is produced and how it can help you stay healthy.

A tea tasting and lecture will be hosted by Chinese tea expert Jiang Jianfeng.

Where: Culture Yard, 10 Shique Hutong, Beixinqiao, Dongcheng District

When: April 27, 7-9 pm

Cost: 70 yuan

Tel: 8404 4166

(By Zhang Nan)



# Fri, Apr. 20



## Nightlife Psychoney Wave

Psychoney was an indie company made up of several musicians. The bands performing Skip Skip Benben, Chui Wan,

Deadly Cradle Death and Bird-striking.  
Where: MAO Live House, 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District  
When: 8:30 pm  
Admission: 70 yuan  
Tel: 6402 5080  
**420 Fest**  
The name is borrowed from the US and its traditional April 20 parties. The

bands that will appear at 13 Club include Bad Mamason, Ready to Die and the Lifeless.  
Where: 13 Club, 161 Lanqiy-ing, Haidian District  
When: 9:30 pm  
Admission: 70 yuan  
Tel: 8261 9267  
**Marky Ramone**  
Marky Ramone, drummer for the Ramones, is one of the originators of punk and the

recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Grammy. He returns to China for the first time since 2007 to play a show at Yugongyishan with his band, Marky Ramone's Blitzkrieg.  
Where: Yugong Yishan, Zhangzizhong No.3-2, Dongcheng District  
When: 8 pm  
Admission: 180-240 yuan  
Tel: 64042711

# Sat, Apr. 21

## Stage play David Copperfield

To memorialize the famous British writer Charles Dickens, TNT Theatre Britain is taking *David Copperfield* on a world tour. Director Paul Stebbings has expanded the theme of this drama by adding new music and stage settings. *David Copperfield* by TNT is a tragedy, comedy, love story and musical.  
Where: Century Forum of Peking University, 5 Yiheyuan Lu, Haidian  
When: 7 pm  
Admission: 80-200 yuan  
Tel: 6551 6930



## Exhibition Three Shadow Photography Awards

Exhibition of the Three Shadows Photography Award Photographers and their works will be judged by experts in their field, including Kasahara Michiko, lecturer of Meiji Gakuin University and the curator at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Tokyo; Christopher Phillips, curator in ICP; and Ruan Zhongyi, Taiwan photographer, among others.

Where: Three Shadows Photography Art Center, Caochangdi, No. 155, Chaoyang District  
When: 10 am - 6 pm  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 6432 2663

## PresentpasT by Julia Winter

The Russian artist Julia Winter will present PresentpasT, curated by Maarten Bertheux. The theme revolves around winter providing space for imagination, urging people to understand and reinterpret the things they see in daily life.

Where: Qita Gallery, west of Bei Sanhuan Lu, 798 Art District, No. 706, Chaoyang District  
When: 4-6 pm  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 6431 9684



## Movie Piccadilly Revisited

The classic silent movie *Piccadilly*, made in 1929, was actress Anna May Wong's most popular work. Chinatown Arts Space has remade the work, *Piccadilly Revisited*, and will show it at BC MOMA. The movie includes new dubbing and surreal effects, giving audiences a

# Sun, Apr. 22

chance to experience the charm of early British cinema.  
Where: BC MOMA, Dangdai MOMA Building T4, 1 Xiangheyuan Lu, Dongzhimen, Dongcheng District  
When: 7:30 pm  
Admission: 60 yuan  
Tel: 8438 8257 / 8258 ext. 8001  
**Nightlife**  
**Chinese Rocks**  
This show is a tribute to punk rock guitarist Johnny Thunders. The bands who will perform at this two-



hour show include Dead Johnny's Pistols, Bedstar and Dr. Liu & The Human Centipede.  
Where: MAO Live House, 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District  
When: 10 pm  
Admission: 30 yuan  
Tel: 6402 5080

# Mon, Apr. 23

## Public lecture Kasahara Michiko

Kasahara Michiko, a lecturer at Meiji Gakuin University and curator at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo from 2002 to 2006, will talk about the issue of gender in contemporary Japanese photography.  
Where: Japan Foundation, Room 301, SK Building, 6 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District  
When: 7 pm  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 8567 9511



# Tue, Apr. 24

## Movie Vier Minuten

Story Coffee is presenting a series of German movies in April. *Vier Minuten*, directed and written by Chris Kraus, is a story about music and love. It won the award for best movie at the Shanghai Golden Goblet in 2006 and an Audience Award in 2007.  
Where: Story Coffee, Building D, Huayuan Enterprise Center, 9 Beizhan Bei



Jie, Xicheng District  
When: 7 pm  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 8832 0741

## Concert Loving My Fiddle by EOS Orchestra

This is the second part of EOS Orchestra's concert "2011-2012 Loving My Fiddle." The members in EOS Orchestra are violinist Zhang Jingye, organist Shen Fanxiu and conductor Hu Yongyan. Their repertoire includes Violin Concerto, Paganini and Symphony No. 3



# Wed, Apr. 25

in C Minor (Organ Symphony) Op. 78, Sanit-saens.  
Where: Building D, 1 Bei Xinhua Jie, Xicheng District  
When: 7:30 pm  
Admission: 30-480 yuan  
Tel: 6605 7006  
**Nightlife**  
**The Little Handsome and Liu Yusi**  
The American band Little Hand-

some will join Chinese guitarist Liu Yusi of The Randy Abel Stable at Jianghu Bar. They will play folk music that spans three centuries.  
Where: 7 Dong Mianhua Hutong, Jiadaokou Nan Jie, Haidian District  
When: 9 pm  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 6401 5269



# Thu, Apr. 26

## Musical drama Mulan

The musical drama *Mulan* is made by a Chinese and Japanese team, with famous Japanese director Ueda. The makers obtained material from the

popular Chinese story of Hua Mulan joining the army in disguise for her father. The main roles are played by Chinese dancer Huang Doudou and Japanese actor Makoto Tsubasa.  
Where: Poly Theatre, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Jie, Dongcheng District  
When: 7:30 pm  
Admission: 180-1,680 yuan  
Tel: 6500 1188 ext. 5126 / 5682



(By Liu Xiaochen)



# Ancient Suzhou in springtime

“Paradise above, Suzhou and Hangzhou below,” goes the ancient Chinese saying to describe the unrivaled beauty of Suzhou and Hangzhou. **Sally Zhang** went to Suzhou recently to experience all that it has to offer.

*Suzhou is sometimes called the “Venice of the East,” but it’s officially the “Oriental water city.”*

Blessed with the Grand Canal, Tai Lake and the 2,500 years of history, Suzhou truly is a city abundant with beautiful landmarks and places of interest.

That’s what I’d heard, anyway. I studied up before I left, learning about its traditional gardens and famous silk embroidery.

I took the high-speed train from Beijing South Railway Station and was at my destination within five hours. It was only after I got off the train that I knew the stories were true: seeing the beauty of Suzhou was believing.

Suzhou was the capital of the State of Wu during the Spring and Autumn Period (770-476 BC) and the State of Yue during the Warring States Period (475-221 BC) and as such has plenty of ancient sites, all accompanied by stories that pique the curiosity and imagination.

The best way to explore is on one’s own. Plan your time and tailor your schedule around what suits your fancy. You won’t go wrong with any choice.

You can walk around Old Town for a couple of days, or stroll through the city’s gardens. You can climb Hu Qiu, or Tiger Hill, to the famous leaning tower, or take a boat near Hanshan Temple and experience what Tang Dynasty (618-907) poet Zhang Ji must have felt when he wrote the famous verse, “A Night Mooring Near Maple Bridge.”

Hu Qiu is so named because it looks like a crouching tiger. Legend has it that a white tiger appeared on the hill to guard the tomb of Wu from the Spring and Autumn Period.

The most famous site on the hill is a leaning pagoda that dates back

more than 1,000 years – about 200 years before Italy’s Leaning Tower of Pisa.

Zhuo Zheng Yuan, or the Humble Administrator’s Garden, is a classical garden that used to be privately owned. It is a symbol of Suzhou – and the biggest garden in the city – created with elegant aesthetics, delicate styles and subtlety, in contrast with the grandeur of imperial gardens in Beijing.

The columns, doors and windows in the Suzhou gardens are less elaborate, and are lacquered with plain dark colors. Walls are painted white, sometimes light gray. Roofs and eave drains are also light gray. These colors, along with delicately carved window lattices, complement the green plants in the garden, creating a quiet and relaxing ambiance. The garden comes alive during the spring, when flowers bloom.

The Hanshan Temple derives its name from Hanshan, a legendary monk and poet. Many Chinese, Japanese and Koreans visit here on Chinese New Year’s Eve to listen to the temple’s bells.

When there’s no wind, one can sit on a boat and moor at the bridges to enjoy the surrounding tranquility.

Visitors shouldn’t leave without trying local dishes such as the sweet and sour Mandarin fish and water shield with whitebait soup. Each spring, usually in early April, there is a grand food festival on Guanqian Street, adjacent to Xuanmiao Daoist Temple near the Old Town’s center.

And if you really have time, unwind at a teahouse and try the local Biluochun tea while listening to ballad or Suzhou *pingtan*, a local form of storytelling that mixes song with the local dialect.



View of Shantang Street

CFP/IC Photos